



NEWS RELEASE

City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMMUNITY GARDENS TO RECEIVE 24 TONS OF ORGANIC COMPOST FROM VONS

Public is Invited to Attend a Free Workshop on Saturday, August 19

SANTA BARBARA, CA – The Parks & Recreation's Community Gardens program will be the fortunate recipient of 24 tons of organic compost (40 cubic yards) on Saturday morning, August 19, when a Vons truck will unload this "gift" at the Yanonali Community Garden site on Yanonali and Soledad Streets. The public is encouraged to attend a free workshop at the garden from 9:30-11am to witness the compost delivery and also to learn more about composting, vermiculture, proper planting techniques, the community gardens program and sustainable landscaping. City staff from Environmental Services and Parks & Recreation will provide demonstrations on worm composting (vermiculture) and proper planting techniques using compost. Information will also be available on the Green Gardener Program, sustainable landscaping, zero waste, community gardens and the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program—all part of the City's sustainable program to encourage and incorporate environmentally-friendly practices in all its operations.

Vons recycles nearly 100,000 tons of waste materials each year in an effort to preserve valuable landfill space and improve the quality of the environment. Produce, floral, bakery, deli and dairy are collected at stores daily, mixed with city green waste and turned into a high-grade organic compost ready for use for local gardening projects such as the City's three community gardens. The use of compost helps improve soil quality, aids in plant growth, reduces soil compaction and helps in moisture retention.

The organic compost will be available to all participants in the community gardens program. There are a total of 180 plots available to rent annually at Yanonali, Pilgrim Terrace and Rancheria Gardens. All three gardens were recently renovated and received the California Park & Recreation Society (CPRS) 2205 Award of Excellence for Neighborhood and Community Life. The gardens teach and encourage pesticide-free organic gardening, promote healthy lifestyles and family nutrition, and enhance community building. The new sustainable city program is helping the City organization

For more information, please contact Kathy Sullivan, Marketing & Communications Supervisor, at 564-5589.